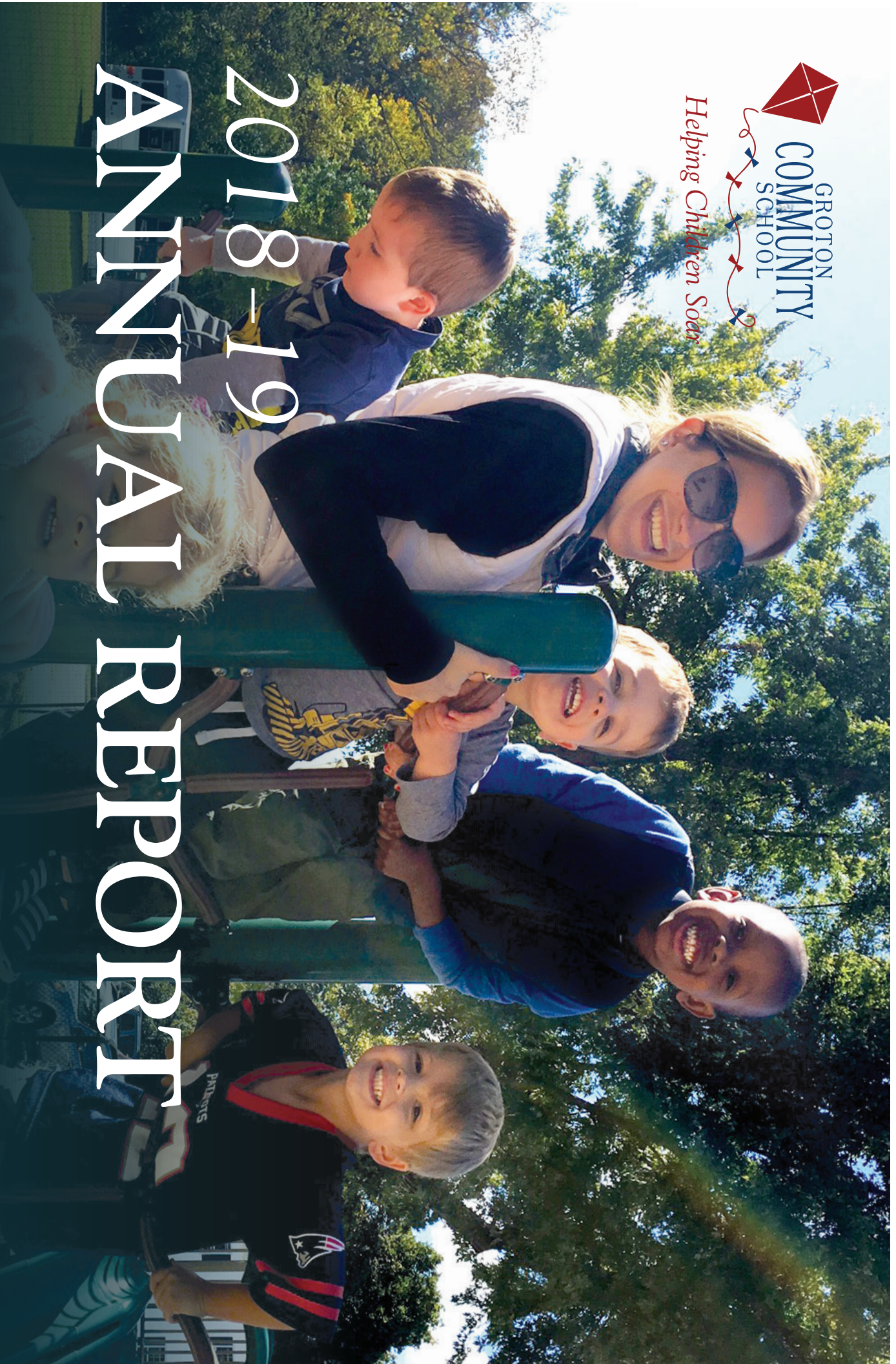


2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT





LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

For more than thirty-five years now, I have looked forward to fall and the beginning of a new year here at Groton Community School. Reuniting with the children we haven't seen all summer, seeing all of their tremendous growth, and welcoming our newest young friends and their families brings me great joy. There is nothing that compares to the pure **delight** we see in our GCS children's smiles. You help make those smiles possible!

Every year that you choose to contribute to the GCS Annual Fund, you help to provide young children in our community with an extraordinary first school experience and set them on the course for **lifelong success**. You can read about one of the many ways your donations has positively impacted the children here in our 2018-19 **Annual Report**.

The true **impact** of your gifts is reflected by the children of GCS themselves. When we see the children running through the front door because they can't wait to get into their classroom to see what is available today, and to greet their teachers and friends, it reminds us how vital your contribution is.

We have so much to be **grateful** for at GCS. Although this booklet is focused on recognizing our loyal annual donors, it seems

the perfect opportunity to share our tremendous appreciation for our friends at Lawrence Academy. With their assistance and support, GCS has a temporary home at the former Country Day School while our 110 Boston Road site is under construction. The *Forward Motion* committee is continuing its fundraising efforts so that we may fully realize the vision for *Phase One* of the project and make *Phase Two* of the project a reality.



The work we do with young children would not be possible without your support. On behalf of the entire GCS community, **Thank You.**

With Tremendous Gratitude,

Linda Kosinki, Director
Groton Community School

HOW WE HELP CHILDREN SOAR



Groton Community School is a nationally accredited, non-profit early childhood center. We are committed to interacting with each child as a unique individual and dedicated to giving each child and his/her family the most positive first school experience. We strive to be a “community” school in every sense of the word, welcoming and embracing the community. We are a place for children and families to feel a sense of belonging, and to learn and grow **together.**



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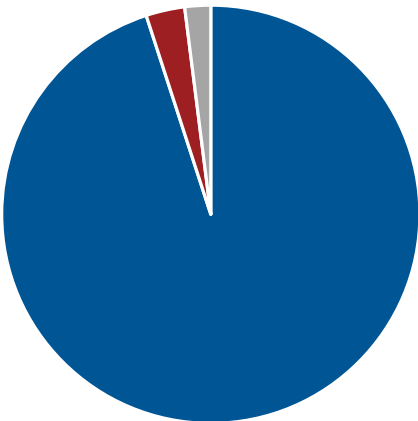
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Lisa Stafford, *Assistant Director*

Terri Martin, *Full Day Coordinator
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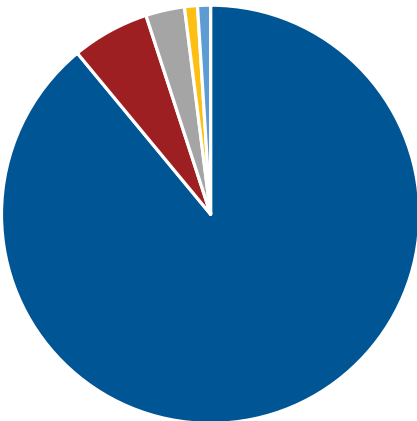
FINANCIALS | 2018-2019

Philanthropic Giving:
\$63,280



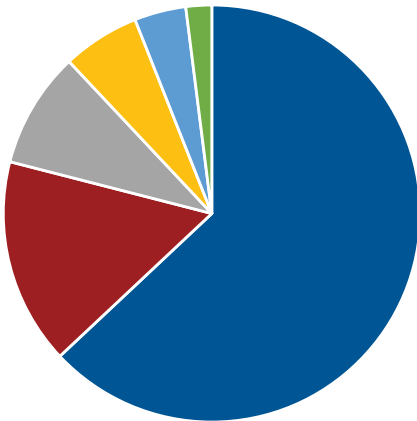
- Individuals 95%
- Corporate 3%
- Matching Gifts 2%

Operational Expenses:
\$1,040,436



- Staff 89%
- Curriculum, Management & General 6%
- Building & Grounds 3%
- Misc & Other 1%
- Annual Fund 1%

Operating Revenue:
\$1,125,434



- Tuition & Fees 63%
- Extended Day 16%
- Summer Program 9%
- Annual Fund 6%
- Misc Other Revenue 4%
- In-House Fundraising 2%

HOW YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The image of children singing and clapping, beating on a drum, or banging cymbals might seem right at home in a preschool setting. Music and rhythm are an essential part of childhood in general. From the first time you sing “Itsy Bitsy Spider” and teach a child how to move their little hands, so the spider climbs up the water spout, you are doing so much more than entertaining. A child’s language learning starts at birth, and early exposure to music directly impacts future reading success.

Research demonstrates the links between music and developing attention span, expanded vocabulary, and memory. Experiencing music regularly as a young child is a critical part of building both language and listening skills. Music plays such a vital role in a child’s development that it is incorporated into our curriculum every day.

One of the ways your gift to the GCS Annual Fund impacts the school is by bringing music and rhythm to our children in a unique way. Because of you, GCS children benefit from weekly creative movement activities with Patty Barr, the founder of Imagination Kidz. “Patty Barr Days” are more than just a “whole lot of fun” as some GCS children will tell you, but of course, being fun helps!

“Creative movement activities practice both gross motor skills and fine motor skills. They stimulate cognitive development, promote self-expression, and foster social-emotional well-being,” shared Patty. “The creative movement curriculum follows current research in early childhood education.”

Each year as you make a gift to the GCS Annual Fund, you do so much to support the youngest members of our community. By making programs like Creative Movement available, you are helping them build coordination, a strong body, and skills assisting them in learning to read, thus providing the foundation for the balance of their education.

Your giving makes all the difference!



GCS FAMILY IS THREE GENERATIONS STRONG



Above: Meghan, with her sister Erin, during their time at GCS. Facing page: Meghan today, reading to her GCS children.

One of Groton Community School's newest teachers, Meghan Zocchi, comes from a GCS family that is three generations strong. In the mid-1980s when Meghan and her younger sister attended GCS, their mother, Tish Kilgore, was the school's music teacher. When she was in Middle School, Meghan enjoyed volunteering at GCS while her mom taught the last class of the day.

Now history is repeating itself as Meghan's first-grade nephew is a GCS alumnus, and her nieces and her own three children currently attend GCS. Additionally, Meghan teaches in the Tuesday-Thursday Yellow Room.

"The school is very near to our hearts," said Meghan. "All of my memories of GCS are extremely positive. What carried over from my experience at GCS was a love of school, a desire to be a lifelong learner, and a love for teaching. GCS set me up to have a love of learning."

Meghan delights in sharing her love of learning with others. She credits her family, especially her two grandfathers, for inspiring her career choices. "I started student-teaching piano when I was in High

School, and I fell in love with it. I have been teaching in a variety of ways ever since.”

The curiosity, excitement, and enthusiasm that children bring to each day drive Meghan’s passion for teaching at the early childhood level. She appreciates the “contagious energy and joy” coming from her classroom.

Meghan and her husband, Steve, chose GCS for their children a few years before she started teaching here. “I knew the school and had such really wonderful memories. The philosophy, the focus on kindness, and the curriculum made it the clear choice for our children. When Steve walked in he said to me, ‘Wow this place feels like home!’ It is one of those things that sets GCS apart.”

As soon as Meghan’s twins, Nico and Matteo, started at GCS, she recognized the warmth and family atmosphere among the staff and decided that she wanted to work here. “There is a culture of community within the school that is evident among the teachers, parents, and children. The focus on kindness permeates the entire GCS experience.”



DONATIONS | BY GIFT CLUB

Groton Community School is tremendously grateful for the following individuals and corporations who supported the Annual Fund in 2018-19. Your gifts help GCS children to soar!



1930's CIRCLE \$10,000+

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Steve and Nancy Webber*†

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The McConnell Family
Paul and Inga Nuccio
Kyle and Megan Petka
David Quintin and Bonnie Stanton
Michael and Martha Resch*
S. & K. Robertson
Carl Rodriguez and Joan Denaro
Evan and Brianne Weider

* Have given to Annual Fund 5 consecutive years
† Members of the Adelaide Luca Giving Society

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Taylor Gorycki
Joshua Kosinski
Ryan Kosinski
Anna MacDonald
Daniel MacDonald
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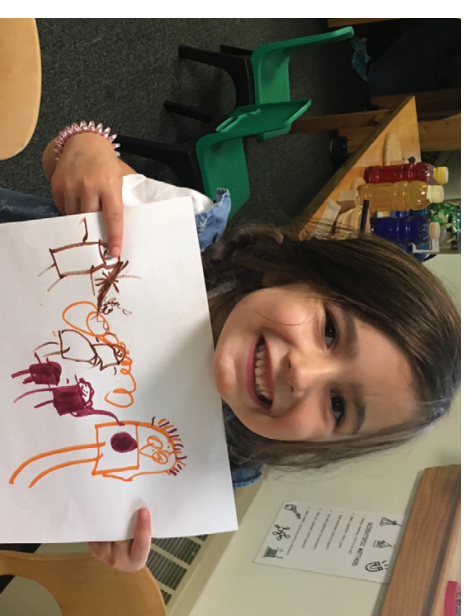
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DONOR PROFILE | NATINA PERROTTI

Natina Perrotti initially learned of Groton Community School when she and her husband Bryan were looking for an excellent first school for their toddler. At a friend's suggestion, the Perrotti's attended an open house at GCS, and they were immediately hooked. "There was something special that was evident after just a few minutes of our being in the building," said Natina. "We could sense the staff's dedication to every child and their commitment to instilling a sense of community and generosity to those around us."

GCS was founded on the premise of teaching children the values of kindness and caring for others, community awareness, and good citizenship. These values are still the basis for the school's philosophy today, and what Natina wishes more people knew about GCS. "If more of our population set out with this in mind each day, imagine what could be accomplished. I love that GCS reinforced the values we taught our son at home."

"I often refer to myself as an alum, though it is my son who is the alum! I feel that I re-learned many of my early childhood education lessons by my many GCS connections. I truly believe I became a better parent because of the skills I learned from the teachers at GCS."

Although she had been very involved on the Board of Directors when her son was attending the school, Natina was shocked when she was asked in 2018 to serve as a GCS Trustee. "I didn't see how I could help. But then the words were spoken, 'We need your energy,' and I thought, 'Well, I have plenty of that to give!'"



Natina supports the Annual Fund, "so our community's children can continue to receive the same lessons on kindness and community service that GCS has been steadfast and lovingly teaching for nearly 75 years." The school relies on gifts to the Annual Fund to supplement tuition and lessen the cost passed on to current families. "It is these young families that might struggle to afford tuition costs, and gifts to the Annual Fund help make the GCS experience attainable for them."

When Natina isn't volunteering for GCS, she keeps busy by rescuing dogs, caring for her husband, son, and extended family, and walking with friends. She shared, "Some people may know that I am obsessively passionate about a lot of things, but few know that I used to drive a motorcycle!"





110 Boston Road, Route 119
Groton, MA 01450

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please join GCS for our 15th Annual Home Tour on Saturday, November 23
www.grotoncommunityschool.org/home-tour